(b) whether it is a fact that these castes specially Jats were not included in the recommendations made by the Mandal Commission for O.B.C. category; and

(c) if so, on what grounds these castes have been recognised as O.B.C. and whether Government have made any assessment about the adverse effect on the other castes which have already been included in O.B.C. list on the basis of the recommendations of Mandal Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Government of India have notified (vide Gazette Notification No. 241 dated 27th October, 1999) inclusion of Jats of Rajasthan (except Bharatpur and Dhaulpur Districts) along with inclusion of other castes in the Central List of OBC in respect of the States of Andhra Pradesh, UT of Chandigarh, NCT of Delhi, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal.

(b) and (c) Only 21 castes/communities covered by the Notification were included in the Mandal Commission report. The Jats of Rajasthan were not included in the List of OBCs recommended by the Mandal Commission. Inclusion of communities/castes in the Central OBC List has been done on the advice of National Commission for Backward classes who give recommendation after due enquiry. As per the provision of NCBC Act, the advice of the NCBC is ordinarily binding on the Government.

Obligation under WTO

*11. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI YADALAPATI VENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the country's obligation under the World Trade Organisation yet to be fulfilled; and

(b) the steps proposed for early legislation in respect thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The WTO Agreements have provided specific transition periods for meeting certain obligations thereunder. These include phasing out of certain Trade Related Investment Measures by 1.1.2000,

making/amending laws to provide for intellectual property protection in areas such as patents, copy rights, industrial designs, layout design of integrated circuits, trade marks, sui generis plant variety protection and protection of trade secrets.

(b) All necessary steps have been/are being taken by the Government to meet these obligation within the stipulated time period.

Modifications in Patents (Amendment) Bill

*12. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission has suggested extensive modifications to the Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998 which was passed by the Rajya Sabha but lapsed due to the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha, since replaced by an Ordinance, for incorporation in the new legislation on the subject;

(b) if so, the details of the modifications suggested and whether Government would include these modifications while passing the amending Bill in Parliament; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) The Patents (Amendment) ordinance, 1999 issued on 8 January, 1999 has since been replaced by the Patents (Amendment) Act, 1999 after its passage by Lok Sabha and assent by the President on 26 March, 1999. The suggestions of the Law Commission, as relevant to the legislation, were considered.

Provision of Funds for Development of towns under Bhopal Division

†*13. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of towns of Bhopal Division of Madhya Pradesh to which funds have been provided by the Central Government under the various schemes of urban development and year-wise funds provided to each town during the last five years; and

(b) the names of towns of Bhopal Division for which proposals for

† Original notice of the Questions was received in Hindi.